

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (New): A filter material treatment process comprising:
resinating a filter material with an aqueous polymer dispersion comprising dispersed particles of at least one polymer A1 obtained by free-radical emulsion polymerization in the presence of a polymer A2 to form a resinated filter material, and
curing the resinated filter material;
wherein the polymer A2 comprises:
(i) polymerized units of from 50 to 99.5% by weight of at least one of an ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid,
(ii) from 0.5 to 50% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated compound having an amine containing at least one hydroxyl group selected from the group consisting of an ester of an ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid, a monoester of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, and a diester of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, and
(iii) up to 20% by weight of at least one further monomer.

Claim 13 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the curing is carried out by heating the resinated filter material.

Claim 14 (New): The process of Claim 13, wherein the heating is carried out at a temperature of from 100 to 250°C for from 0.1 to 60 minutes.

Claim 15 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the filter material is a filter paper or a filter cloth.

Claim 16 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the pH of the aqueous polymer dispersion is from 2 to 8.

Claim 17 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the pH of the aqueous polymer dispersion is from 3.0 to 6.5.

Claim 18 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion further comprises a base.

Claim 19 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the pore size of the filter material and the cured, resinated filter material is the same.

Claim 20 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the air permeability of the filter material measured by ISO 9237 does not decrease by more than 13% after the resinating and the curing.

Claim 21 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the permeability of the filter material measured by ISO 9237 does not decrease by more than 1% after the resinating and the curing.

Claim 22 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the permeability of the filter material measured by ISO 9237 does not decrease by more than 4% after the resinating and the curing.

Claim 23 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the resinating is carried out in the absence of organic solvents.

Claim 24 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the polymer A2 comprises polymerized units of at least one of an ethylenically unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid; and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a C₃-C₁₀ monocarboxylic acid and a C₄-C₈ dicarboxylic acid.

Claim 25 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the polymer A2 comprises at least one ethylenically unsaturated compound having an amine containing at least one hydroxyl group selected from the group consisting of a monoester of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid with an amine and a diester of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid,

wherein the amine containing at the hydroxyl group is at least one amine of formula (I):



wherein R^c is at least one of a C₆ to C₂₂ alkyl, a C₆ to C₂₂ alkenyl, an aryl-C₆-C₂₂ alkyl or an aryl-C₆-C₂₂ alkenyl, wherein the alkenyl radical may have 1, 2 or 3 nonadjacent double bonds,

R^a is at least one of a hydroxy-C₁-C₆ alkyl or a radical of formula II



wherein the sequence of the alkylene oxide units is arbitrary and x and y independently are an integer from 0 to 100, and the sum of x and y is > 1,

R^b is at least one of hydrogen, a C₁ to C₂₂ alkyl, a hydroxy-C₁-C₆ alkyl, a C₆ to C₂₂ alkenyl, an aryl-C₆-C₂₂ alkyl, an aryl-C₆-C₂₂ alkenyl or C₅ to C₈ cycloalkyl, wherein the alkenyl radical may have 1, 2 or 3 nonadjacent double bonds, or R^b is a radical of formula III



wherein the sequence of the alkylene oxide units is arbitrary and v and w independently are an integer from 0 to 100.

Claim 26 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the weight ratio of polymer A1 to polymer A2 based on the solid weight of polymer A1 and polymer A2 is from 9:1 to 1:9.

Claim 27 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the weight ratio of polymer A1 to polymer A2 based on the solid weight of polymer A1 and polymer A2 is from 3:1 to 1:3.

Claim 28 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion further comprises an alkanolamine crosslinker having at least two hydroxyl groups.

Claim 29 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the aqueous polymer dispersion comprises an inorganic component.

Claim 30 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the resinating is carried out by impregnating the filter material with the aqueous polymer dispersion.

Claim 31 (New): The process of Claim 12, wherein the resinating is carried out by spraying the aqueous polymer dispersion onto the filter material.

Claim 32 (New): A resinated, cured filter material obtained by the process as claimed in Claim 12.

Claim 33 (New): The process of Claim 12, further comprising:
passing a particulate-containing fluid through the cured, resinated filter material to remove the particulate from the fluid and provide a filtered fluid.